

Bonnie

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION II

INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: August 17, 1993

From: Dilshad J. Perera, OSC *DJ Perera*
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Subject: Pacific Vegetable Oil International, Inc.

Polrep: One (1)

II. BACKGROUND

Site Number: CB
Delivery Order Number: Region 3 Will Assign
Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Action Memorandum: Draft
Start Date: 8-14-93

III. SITE INFORMATION

On Friday, August 13, 1993, The New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (NJDEPE) notified through EPA's 24-hour hotline at 1630 hrs. of a chemical burn suffered by a juvenile as a result of gaining access to Pacific Vegetable Oil International, Inc. (PVO) property located on Division Avenue in Booton, New Jersey.

The facility which consists of three separate buildings had been under a NJDEPE ECRA corrective action since approximately 1985. PVO is currently under Chapter 11 bankruptcy. At an indeterminate time, PVO completely ceased operations at the site, including the removal of site security.

PVO at this location manufactured fatty acids for the margarine industry and lubricants for the jet-aircraft. As part of their quality control and product evaluation, PVO maintained an on site laboratory; it is in this laboratory the juvenile suffered the chemical burns to the hand.

On the evening of the 13th, the Response and Prevention Branch responded to the site. A walk through with a ex-plant manager was performed in the building where the accident occurred and the following items were noted:

Miscellaneous laboratory chemicals such as acids, inorganic salts, 35% solution of hydrogen peroxide, two 5-gallon pails of zinc dust, arsenic standards and sodium cyanide.

Approximately 400 drums of company product, not labeled but did have CAS numbers assigned by the plant manager. These drums supposedly contain fatty acids.

A 3,000-gallon tanker truck that contains all PVO's waste and byproducts of reactions and processes.

Six vertical tanks ranging in size from 10-25,000 gallons; contents unknown

According to the local police, site entry by juveniles was common place. On the walk through there was clear indication of vandalism.

IV. REMOVAL ACTIONS

24-hour site security was initiated immediately. At the request of the EPA, the local police provided the security till the afternoon of Saturday, August 14, at which time ERCS provided private security. This action was initiated with the OSC's \$50,000 warrant authority.

V. NEXT STEPS

Site stabilization activities will be initiated once EPA receives access to the property. ORC is presently coordinating with the PRP to obtain site access. A confirmation memo based on the verbal authorization will be submitted as well as an Action Memorandum for the initial stabilization of the site, which will include sampling and labpacking. The OSC conducting this removal action will be Bonita Green.

V. COST INFORMATION

Response Initiated with \$ 50,000 OSC warrant.